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UNCLAS YEREVAN 001628

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN AND FOR EUR/SNEC
DEPT ALSO FOR CA/VO/F/P
FRANKFURT FOR RSC/RCO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CVIS PREL AM

SUBJECT: FORMER NKR REP NOW APPLYING FOR A2 VISA AS
ARMENIAN DIPLOMAT

REF: YEREVAN 1529

This is an action request, please see paragraph 5.

¶1. Post has received two diplomatic notes from the Government of Armenia in as many days requesting that two-year validity A2 visas be issued to former "Nagorno Karabakh Republic" (NKR) Representative Vardan Barseghyan and his wife. In the second note Barseghyan is described as an Armenian MFA employee assigned to the Armenian Embassy in Washington as an assistant to the Ambassador. We seek guidance on the appropriate type of visa to issue, given Barseghyan's supposed change of status. END SUMMARY.

¶2. The first diplomatic note, dated 5 September 2005 describes Mr. Barseghyan as the NKR representative. The accompanying application form lists Vardan Barseghyan's employer as "NKR Foreign Ministry" and his occupation as "NKR Representative to the USA."

¶3. The second diplomatic note dated 7 September 2005, again requests that we issue two-year validity A2 visas to Vardan Barseghyan and his wife. However, according to this note, Barseghyan will be an assistant to the Armenian Ambassador to Washington. The accompanying visa application form also lists his employer as "Armenian Embassy" and his occupation as "Assistant to the Ambassador." (Note: All "diplomatic staff" assigned to the NKR "Foreign Ministry" technically remain Armenian MFA employees and are paid by the Armenian MFA, including NKR "Foreign Minister" and former GOAM Ambassador Arman Melikian. Post expects that Barseghyan's actual function would remain that of "NKR Representative to the USA." End Note.)

¶4. In a telephone conversation the Director of the Consular Division of the Armenian MFA assured CONS that Barseghyan is now working for the Armenian MFA. He reported that the foreign ministers of Armenia and NKR met and transferred Barseghyan's employment from one ministry to the other.

¶5. ACTION REQUEST: Post requests guidance as to whether this re-characterization of Mr. Barseghyan's status requires us to issue an A2 visa, as requested.

EVANS